



Our native pollinators are in trouble, but gardeners are in a unique position to help. Here at Sky Nursery, we are thrilled that so many in our community want to do their part.

WHAT ARE POLLINATORS & WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?

Here in the Pacific Northwest, some of our most important pollinators include native bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and hummingbirds. While honeybees are also important pollinators, they aren't the ones who most need our help. Since different kinds of pollinators have different needs, one of the first steps to making a difference for pollinators is simply learning more about them!

Pollinators are considered keystone species because large communities of plants and animals (including humans) depend on them. Thriving populations of diverse native pollinators are important not only for the plants that rely on them in order to reproduce, but also for entire food webs that depend on those plants.

WHAT CAN GARDENERS DO TO HELP?

- Reduce or completely eliminate pesticides, practice holistic pest prevention, and accept small pest outbreaks as just a part of the natural cycles of your garden.
- Plan for abundant blooms all year long, not just in the spring/summer months, and include at least some native plants. It's also a good idea to stick to classic varieties known to be great pollinator plants like the ones in the list below.
- Provide water trays in hot summer months with pebbles for pollinators to land on
- Choose a few plants that you wouldn't mind seeing holes on. Moth and butterfly caterpillars need leaves to eat; we identify good host plants in the list below.
- Allow sections of your garden to grow wild and undisturbed with native shrubs and leaf piles to provide nest sites and overwintering habitat for bumblebees and solitary bees.
- Let veggies and herbs go to seed! Some of the best pollinator plants are edibles like parsley, kale, and cilantro that have bolted. This is true for many common weeds as well.
- Consider getting involved with advocacy organizations like The Xerces Society that are working for large-scale change on the larger challenges pollinators face.
- Share pollinator info on social media, work with existing educational organizations, and share your appreciation of pollinators with friends, family and neighbors.

Whatever steps you take to support local pollinators in the PNW are steps in the right direction. Over time, you can be certain that more and more beneficial insects will begin to visit, increasing crop yields, natural beauty, and the overall health of your garden. After all, a garden without pollinators wouldn't be much of a garden at all!

Pollinator Plants



Bee plants



Butterfly plants
(Includes caterpillar host)



Hummingbird plants



Pollinator favorite

LATE WINTER - January & February

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> Manzanita		Evergreen shrub	Long blooming, bell shaped pink/white flowers, caterpillar host plant
<i>Corylus sp.</i> Hazelnut, Filbert		Deciduous native tree	Edible nuts, ornamental varieties available; takes partial shade
<i>Crocus</i> Crocus		Bulb	Great early bloomer; can naturalize; good in containers
<i>Cyclamen, hardy</i> Cyclamen		Bulb	Naturalizing bulb, unique pink/red/white flowers, takes light shade
<i>Erica carnea</i> Winter Heather		Evergreen shrub	Compact sub-shrub grown for foliage interest as well as flowers
<i>Hamamelis</i> Witch Hazel		Deciduous shrub	Full sun, spidery yellow, orange, or red blooms, great fall color
<i>Mahonia</i> Oregon Grape		Evergreen native shrub	Shade, yellow blooms, summer blue berries for songbirds
<i>Galanthus</i> Snow Drops		Bulb	Very hardy early-season bloomer that can naturalize, full-part sun
<i>Pieris japonica</i> Andromeda		Evergreen shrub	Long blooming bell flowers, tolerates light shade, great in containers
<i>Sarcococca</i> Sweet Box		Evergreen shrub	Shade loving, very fragrant white flowers

LATE WINTER TO EARLY SPRING - Late February & March

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> Basket of Gold		Evergreen groundcover	Mounding plant with bright yellow flower clusters, seaside tolerant
<i>Berberis asstd.</i> Barberry		Deciduous shrub	Very tough, easy to grow, drought tolerant with red berries in fall
<i>Chaenomeles</i> Flowering Quince		Deciduous shrub	Brightly colored flowers before the foliage emerges
<i>Clematis armandii</i> Evergreen Clematis		Evergreen vine	Fragrant white to light pink flowers, beautiful foliage
<i>Crataegus asstd.</i> Hawthorne		Deciduous tree	Lovely, multi trunked, urban gardens Look for native var. <i>C. douglasii</i>
<i>Oxalis oregano</i> Redwood Sorrel		PNW Native groundcover	Shade, can tolerate wet & dry soil conditions, white blooms
<i>Prunus asstd.</i> Plum tree		Fruiting/flowering tree	Full sun, Pink blooms will be buzzing with bees this time of year!
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> Flowering Currant		Deciduous native shrub	Elegant, red, white & pink blooms, best for pollinators is native red

Pollinator Plants

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i> Salmonberry	 	Deciduous edible shrub	Native relative of raspberry; pink flowers; songbirds love fruit
<i>Salix asstd.</i> Willow	 	Deciduous tree	Great pollen, short bloom, only 10 to 15 days, tolerates wet soil

HIGH SPRING - End of March, April, & Early May

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> Serviceberry	 	Deciduous shrub	Butterfly host plant, Fruits loved by birds & small mammals
<i>Antirrhinum</i> Snapdragon		Annual flower	Cold tolerant, blooms both spring & fall in variety of colors
<i>Aquilegia</i> Columbine		Perennial flower	Red-flowered varieties are best; native species available
<i>Armeria</i> Thrift, Sea Pink		Perennial flower	Full sun, container plant, slow spread, Look for native <i>Armeria maritima</i>
<i>Borago officinalis</i> Borage	 	Annual flower	Bee's favorite food. Easy to grow, edible blue flowers. Will self-sow.
<i>Calendula</i> Calendula	 	Annual flower	Can re-seed, thrives in cooler weather, blooms spring & fall
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> Bleeding Heart	 	Perennial flower	Lovely spring ephemeral flower, Caterpillar host plant
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i> Salal	  	Native groundcover	Edible fruit July-September, slow growing, white bell-shaped flowers
<i>Iberis</i> Candytuft		Perennial flower	Full sun, some re-blooming varieties, good in rock gardens/sandy soil
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i> Rose campion		Perennial flower	Full-part sun, red, pink or white flowers similar to dianthus
<i>Malus</i> Apple, Crabapple	 	Deciduous fruit tree	White/pink flowers, good fall color; caterpillar host plant
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> Phlox	 	Perennial flower	Groundcover varieties available, long blooming, flower clusters
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> Ninebark		Evergreen shrub	Full sun, bee magnet! Flower clusters on a variety of foliage colors
<i>Prunus sp.</i> Cherry tree		Fruiting/flowering tree	Full sun, pink/white blooms, plus, w/ fruiting varieties: delicious cherries!
<i>Pulmonaria</i> Lungwort		Perennial flower	Shade-loving plant, silver-spotted foliage, blue/pink flowers
<i>Rhododendron</i> Rhododendron, Azalea	 	Evergreen shrub	Shade loving, some sun varieties, caterpillar host plant!
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> Rosemary	 	Evergreen herb	Full sun, good drainage; trailing & upright forms available
<i>Salvia officinalis</i> Culinary Sage	  	Evergreen herb	Soft gray green foliage; see other salvias below, avoid 'Berggarten' sp.

Pollinator Plants

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Sambucus</i> Elderberry	  	Deciduous edible shrub	Short bloom, great fall color, fast growing, tasty berries
<i>Tagetes patula</i> French Marigold		Annual flower	Great edging plant, orange, golden, & variegated blooms
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> Dandelion	  	Edible weed	Long blooming (as we all know) great caterpillar host plant
<i>Teuchrium chamaedrys</i> Germander	 	Evergreen Per. herb	Dark green foliage; cut back hard in March, then allow to flower
<i>Thymus, asstd.</i> Thyme	 	Evergreen herb	Full sun, edible & groundcover varieties, adorable purple flowers
<i>Verbena</i> Verbena	  	Perennial flower	Long blooming, full sun, deer & rabbit resistant, pink, white, purple
<i>Viola</i> Violet	 	Annual/edible flower	Spring/fall bloom, caterpillar host plant, self-seed, shade tolerant
<i>Wisteria</i> Wisteria	 	Deciduous vine	Abundant & fragrant sprays of violet, pink, or white flower spikes

LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER - May & June

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Achillea</i> Yarrow	 	Perennial flower	Long blooming, native variety available, aromatic and herbal
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> Kinnikinnick/Bearberry	  	Native groundcover	Fragrant bell-shaped flowers, then red berries, evergreen leaves
<i>Ceanothus</i> California lilac	  	Evergreen native shrub	Drought tolerant, blue/violet flowers, caterpillar host plant
<i>Clematis asstd.</i> Clematis		Deciduous vine	Dwarf to large; rainbow of colors available; many will rebloom
<i>Cornus</i> Dogwood	 	Deciduous tree	Many white or pink flowers; good fall color, caterpillar host plant
<i>Delphinium</i> Larkspur		Perennial flower	Spikes of attractive blue, pink, purple, or white fairy flowers
<i>Dianthus barbatus</i> Sweet William	 	Biennial flower	Short-lived but, can re-seed, tolerates light shade, white, pink, red flowers
<i>Fuchsia</i> Fuchsia	  	Annual & Perennial	Hanging baskets will be humming magnet all summer
<i>Gaillardia</i> Blanket Flower		Perennial flower	Full sun, can self-seed with some hybridized variations
<i>Lupinus</i> Lupine	  	Perennial flower	Full sun, can self-seed, deer resistant, caterpillar host plant
<i>Papaver sp.</i> Breadseed/Shirley Poppy		Annual flower	Re-seeding pink, purple, red & white flowers, attractive seed pods
<i>Philadelphus</i> Mock Orange		Deciduous shrub	Fragrant white flowers, North American native plant

Pollinator Plants

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
Rosa Wild Rose	  	Deciduous shrub	Avoid sterile roses w/ low pollen & fragrance, caterpillar host plant
Scabiosa Pincushion Flower	 	Perennial flower	Full sun, deadhead for more blooms, periwinkle blue flowers
Spiraea Spiraea	 	Deciduous shrub	Spring/summer blooming var., deer resistant, Look for native <i>S. douglasii</i>
Syringa Lilac	  	Deciduous shrub	Short blooming but worth it, insanely fragrant blooms, lush green foliage
Tropaeolum majus Nasturtium		Annual flower	Long-blooming red/orange, can self-seed, edible, caterpillar host plant
Weigela Weigela		Deciduous shrub	Low maintenance, pink, white, or red flowers with attractive foliage
Vaccinium parviflorum Red Huckleberry	  	Native fruit shrub	Whitish pink/green flowers, bright green foliage, and delicious fruit
Vaccinium sp. Blueberry	  	Deciduous fruit shrub	Attractive foliage with brilliant fall color, delicious berries
Zinnia elegans Zinnia	 	Annual flower	Long blooming, rainbow of colors, various heights, great cut flower!

HIGH SUMMER - June, July, & August

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
Asclepias asstd. Butterfly Weed	  	Perennial flower	Abundant nectar; Caterpillar host plant (monarch fav. but rare in PNW)
Alcea rosea Hollyhock		Perennial flower	Tall, long-blooming cottage garden flower in pink, white, red and purples
Begonia Begonia		Annual flower	Shade loving; upright, trailing waxleaf varieties all available
Campanula sp. Bellflower	 	Perennial flower	Full sun, part shade, beautiful periwinkle bell-shaped blooms
Campsis Trumpet Vine		Perennial vine	Vigorous growth habit; tubular orange or red flowers
Clarkia Clarkia		PNW Native wildflower	Full sun, part shade, pink/red flowers, available as seeds at Sky
Cleome asstd. Spider Flower	 	Annual flower	Purple & pink flowers, 4-6' tall; foliage has unique herbaceous aroma
Coreopsis grandiflora Coreopsis	 	Perennial flower	Long blooming, golden yellow flowers, drought-tolerant
Coriander sativum Coriander/Cilantro		Annual herb	Self-sowing, allow plants to flower (bolt) for pollinators, white flowers
Cosmos Cosmo	 	Annual flower	Long-blooming, easy to grow, makes a great meadow plant!
Crocsmia Coppertips		Perennial flower	Naturalizing bulb, tall spikes of bright red, orange, yellow flowers

Pollinator Plants

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i> Cardoon		Deciduous perennial	Silvery foliage, artichoke-like flower, 5' tall edible. Full sun & reg. water
<i>Digitalis</i> Foxglove		Perennial flower	Tall spires of tubular pink, fuchsia, white and peach fairy flowers
<i>Geranium sp.</i> Cranesbill	  	Perennial flower	Full sun, beautiful pink and blue single flowers, groundcover varieties
<i>Gladiolus</i> Gladiola		Perennial flower	Bulb producing dwarf or tall spikes of flowers, rainbow of colors
<i>Heuchera</i> Coral Bells	 	Perennial flower	Year-round evergreen foliage, bell shaped pink/white blooms
<i>Kniphofia</i> Red Hot Poker Plant		Perennial flower	Spectacular firework blooms of red shading to yellow, long blooming
<i>Lantana</i> Lantana	 	Annual flower	Long blooming, full sun, lots of color varieties, avoid foliage sap
<i>Leucanthemum</i> Shasta Daisies	 	Perennial flower	Full-part sun, large perennial with classic white daisy flowers
<i>Lavandula asstd.</i> Lavender	 	Evergreen perennial	Well draining soil, do not fertilize, bees especially love Spanish var.
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal Flower		Perennial flower	Moisture-loving with flame-red blooms on tall flower spikes
<i>Lonicera</i> Honeysuckle	 	Flowering vine/shrub	Evergreen/Deciduous available; many fragrant; tubular flowers
<i>Melissa officinalis</i> Lemon Balm		Deciduous herb	Long blooming, easy to grow, self-seeding, small white/purple blooms
<i>Mentha piperita</i> Peppermint	 	Deciduous herb	Best mint for pollen, allow plants to flower for pollinator benefit!
<i>Monarda</i> Bee Balm	  	Perennial flower	Long blooming, choose mildew resistant varieties
<i>Nepeta asstd.</i> Catmint (Not Catnip)	 	Deciduous perennial	Long blooming, easy to grow, full sun, great filler plant
<i>Oreganum officinalis</i> Oregano	 	Deciduous herb	Both culinary & ornamental varieties. Self sows nicely
<i>Penstemon</i> Beard Tongue	 	Perennial flower	Full sun, attractive tubular flowers in a rainbow of colors
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> Russian Sage		Perennial flower	Full sun, drought tolerant, architectural lavender flower spikes
<i>Phaseolus coccineus</i> Scarlet Runner Bean		Annual vine	Ornamental or vegetable, vigorous, bright red flowers
<i>Phygelius</i> Cape Fuchsia		Perennial flower	Sun-loving, like true fuchsias, peachy/pink tubular flowers
<i>Salvia asstd.</i> Salvia	 	Annual & Perennial	Full sun, purple/white/pink flowers, some long-blooming varieties
<i>Senecio</i> Dusty Miller/Angel Wings		Perennial foliage	Full sun, yellow blooms in 2nd year, caterpillar host plant

Pollinator Plants

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
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LATE SUMMER/EARLY AUTUMN - Late August & September

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
Agastache asstd. Anise Hyssop	 	Perennial flower/herb	Full sun, very hardy; reblooms if cut back hard, purple flowers
Aster asstd. Aster	 	Perennial flower	Choose single-flowered varieties for bees, light, dark pink & purple flowers
Buddleia Butterfly Bush	  	Deciduous shrub	Sky sells non-invasive varieties, honey-like fragrance, purple flowers
Caryopteris Bluebeard	  	Deciduous shrub	Full sun, long blooming blue/purple flowers, aromatic leaves
Chrysanthemum Mums	 	Perennial flower	Wide variety in species, bees may use pyrethrum to ward off mites
Dahlia Dahlia	 	Perennial flower	Full sun, dwarf to dinnerplate sizes, great late summer show
Echinacea purpurea Coneflower	 	Perennial flower	Full sun, red, orange, yellow, pink blooms, seeds attract birds
Echinops asstd. Globe Thistle	 	Perennial flower	Metallic blue flowers, gray green foliage, very cool looking plant
Eryngium asstd. Blue Sea Holly	 	Perennial flower	Unusual metallic blue flowers, attracts beautiful native wasp sp.
Fuchsia, hardy Fuchsia	  	Perennial flower	Upright, hardy relative of hanging annual fuchsia, delicate flowers
Helianthus annuus Sunflower	 	Annual flower	Full sun, avoid non-allergenic varieties, caterpillar host plant
Helianthus 'Lem. Queen' Lemon Queen Sunflower	 	Perennial flower	Tall sunflower w/ many small lemon yellow flowers in early fall
Hibiscus syriacus Rose of Sharon		Deciduous shrub	Full sun, white, pink, red, purple, lavender tropical blooms
Liatris Gayfeather/Blazing Star	  	Perennial flower	Full sun, North American native plant with tall purple flower spikes
Mimulus Monkeyflower	 	Perennial flower	Long blooming, full sun, moist soil, caterpillar host plant
Rubus idaeus Raspberry	 	Deciduous fruit shrub	Everbearing types long blooming June-October, tasty berries
Rudbeckia Black Eyed Susan	 	Perennial flower	Long blooming, self-seeds vigorously, attracts birds, fast-growing
Sedum spectabilis Autumn Joy Sedum	 	Perennial succulent	Pink flowers, drought-tolerant, tough, caterpillar host plant
Solidago Goldenrod	 	PNW Native perennial	Full sun, tall, graceful & abundant golden yellow flowers
Verbena Verbena		Annual herb	Long blooming, full sun, deer & rabbit resistant, rainbow of colors

AUTUMN/EARLY WINTER September - December

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Arbutus unedo</i> Strawberry Tree	 	Evergreen shrub/tree	Related to native madrone; white flowers & red fruit at same time
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> Camellia		Evergreen shrub	Fall-blooming Many colors; some fragrant
<i>Grevillea</i> Grevillea		Evergreen shrub	Drought tolerant; orange-red flowers fall through spring

FOLIAGE PLANTS - No Blooms, great for caterpillar forage

NAME	POLLINATORS	TYPE	NOTES
<i>Acer</i> Maple		Deciduous tree	Caterpillar host plant
<i>Calocedrus</i> Incense Cedar		Evergreen tree	Caterpillar host plant
<i>Pinus</i> Pine		Evergreen tree	Caterpillar host plant
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Douglas fir		Evergreen tree	Caterpillar host plant